



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

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Contact: Eileen Force
(414)286-8504

State Approves Barrett Request to Fund Canal Street Bus Route

Mayor continues to leverage resources to bring jobs into the Valley

MILWAUKEE (July 20, 2006) – Mayor Tom Barrett is praising Governor Jim Doyle’s decision to commit \$114,000 in additional state funding for a new bus route along Canal Street in the Menomonee Valley. The route is a critical transportation improvement that will help connect workers to new jobs in the Valley. Mayor Barrett had sent a letter to Governor Doyle making the request earlier this week.

A federal Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) grant is available to support creation and operation of the route for three years; however it requires a non-federal match totaling \$364,000 over three years. The state had already committed to providing 60% of the match and the Menomonee Valley Business Improvement District had also pledged \$30,000 for the match, leaving about one-third remaining in needed funds.

The County has already said it cannot afford new bus routes in the current budget and last week, the Milwaukee Common Council voted in opposition of using City funds for the route, leaving Barrett to seek increased support from the State to establish this vital link to the Valley.

“While other local officials continue to find reasons why this can’t or shouldn’t be done, Milwaukee businesses and Milwaukee jobseekers stand to lose,” said Barrett. “I want to thank the Governor who - like me – clearly believes we need to strike while the iron is hot and invest in local businesses and local jobs.”

Dramatic improvements continue in the Menomonee Valley with the recent additions of Proven Direct and Palermo’s and the opening of Canal Street from 6th Street all the way through to Miller Park. Two additional land sales are currently pending before the Common Council.

Barrett continued, “During the 10 years I served in Congress, I learned that we need to be aggressive in pursuing and securing federal funds. I also learned that we need to rise about petty parochialism to get things done. I won’t hesitate to look for additional ways that the city can leverage resources to obtain federal funds that help put people to work in this community, and I’ll go over, above or through whomever I need to get that done.”